

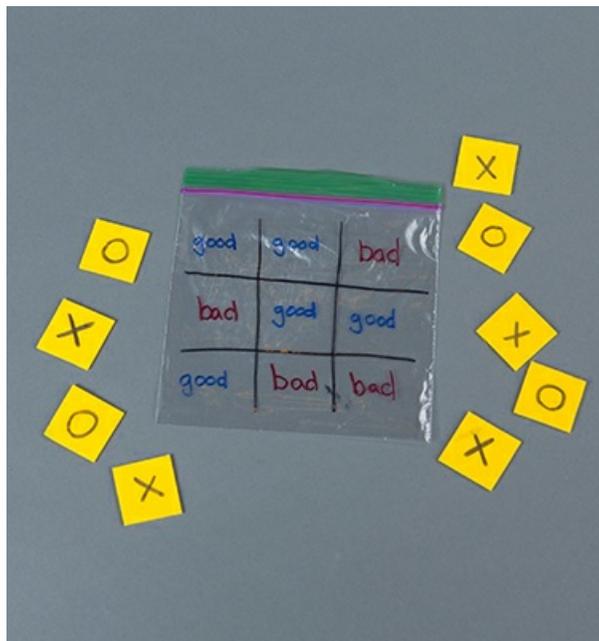


## Supplies

- resealable sandwich bags (1 per child)
- permanent markers
- craft foam (an 8½x11 sheet will be enough for about 4 kids)
- scissors

## Easy Prep

- Make a sample craft to show kids.



### Make a Tic-Tac-Toe Grid

Give each child a sandwich bag, and set out permanent markers. Have kids follow these steps, with older kids helping preschoolers.

- Draw a Tic-Tac-Toe grid on one side of the bag.
- In any four of the squares, write “bad.”
- In the remaining five squares, write “good.”

### Make X's and O's

Set out craft foam and scissors. Have kids make pieces for their game by following these steps, with older kids helping preschoolers.

- Cut out nine squares that will fit in the squares of the Tic-Tac-Toe grid.
- Use permanent markers to draw an X on each square, and then draw an O on the opposite side.

### Play

Say: **Let's try playing our Tic-Tac-Toe games. Your goal, as usual, is to get three in a row. But you also want to try to do it without hitting a “bad” spot. You win when you get three in a row, even if one is on a “bad” space.**

Have kids form mixed-age pairs and choose a grid to use. Have one child in each pair take five pieces and the other take four. (Since all pieces have an X side and an O side, it doesn't matter which pieces they get.)

The kids with five pieces will play the X side. They'll place one piece, and then the O's will place a piece, and so on until all pieces are used or someone gets three in a row. Have kids play several rounds.

### **Talk About It**

Ask: • **Explain what was more important to you: avoiding the "bad" spaces or getting three in a row.**

• **How did your opponent's choices change your choices of where to play?**

Say: **You might've started out wanting to get three in a row on "good" spaces. But eventually, you had a choice: lose the game or choose a "bad" square. Life can give us choices like that sometimes. In order to "win" the friendship of people around us, we might make a bad choice. And sometimes, what other people choose might influence what *you* choose to do.**

Ask: • **What are ways other people influence your decisions?**

Say: **Thankfully, God loves us even when we go along with the crowd. When Aaron went along with the crowd, God still let him become a priest later. But we need to remember that God's ways are better than the crowd's ways. When we choose God's ways, we're making good choices—and we'll always win in the end.**

Have kids put their pieces in their bags so they can take their crafts home. Encourage kids to play with their family and friends and talk about ways other people can influence us to make bad choices.